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STAINES URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

The Senior Sanitary

Inspector

1952

STAINES URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Committee 1952

Chairman : Councillor S. B. Willerton.

Vice Chairman : Councillor H. M. Justice.

Councillors :

Mrs. D. M. Benen-Stock, Mr. G. Frewin, Mr. F. L. Gilbert,
Mr. C. Holder, Mr. C. L. Pengilly, Mrs. E. J. A. Perkins,
Mr. L. Perrin, Miss A. Phipps, Mr. F. W. Raper and
Mrs. M. M. Webster.

Staff of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health (part-time) :

L. A. MATHESON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., D.C.H., M.M.S.A.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

JOHN MULLIN, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A., A.I.HSG.

Sanitary Inspectors :

G. O. AXON, M.S.I.A. (Resigned 31.5.52).

G. A. EVANS, M.S.I.A., A.I.HSG.

P. F. PACKHAM, M.S.I.A., A.R.SAN.I.

R. E. SMITH, M.S.I.A., A.M.I.SAN.E. (Appointed 8.9.52).

Senior Clerk and Shorthand Typist :

Miss L. M. PERRYMAN.

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Miss J. E. LOCKYER.

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H. A. CROUCHER.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS of the STAINES URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my second annual report on the health of the district.

I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the support of the Council in connection with the Clean Food Campaign. Among other publicity measures the Council approved the issue of 20,000 book markers to the public through the medium of the County Libraries at Staines and Ashford. The book markers were attractively printed and stressed the importance of hygienic methods of storing and handling food. Pest extermination and the training of children in hygiene were also briefly dealt with. It was thought that extra interest would be attached to these book markers because the Council had recently been granted a new Coat of Arms and the Arms were printed on one side with a descriptive note on their significance and history. Some 10,000 books are issued by the Libraries in a fortnight and I would acknowledge the cordial co-operation of the Library staff since by this method of distribution a large number of householders received a book mark. That the method adopted was successful was evident from appreciative letters in the local newspapers and letters received in the Public Health Department. I feel that public awareness of clean food is most important. Progress in food hygiene is inevitably slow since in the long run it relies on public support, but again a favourable advance in food handling can be reported. This is in no small measure due to the retailers and food handlers and is much appreciated.

During the latter part of 1952, several cases of infective hepatitis occurred, mostly confined to one part of the area. The cases were almost entirely within the practice of one general practitioner who very helpfully kept me informed from the onset of the cases. The total number of cases was 11, of which 7 were children of school age. The assistance of the Public Health Laboratory at Colindale was sought and virus investigation instituted, which may result in further knowledge of this disease. As this disease is not notifiable all general practitioners in the area and the local General

Hospital have been asked to co-operate by making informal notification of any cases of which they may become aware.

The North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board made arrangements with this department to station their Mass X-Ray Unit at Staines Town Hall between the 18th and 27th November, 1952, during which there were $7\frac{1}{2}$ working days for X-ray of the adult population.

To promote interest and explain the scheme a preliminary public meeting was held in the Town Hall, Staines. All local organisations, employees of the larger industrial undertakings and the Press were invited and the meeting was well attended. The arrangements were explained by Dr. G. Z. Brett, M.D., the Physician in Charge of the Unit who also answered many questions from those present.

The public responded very well to the invitation to have an X-ray examination of their chests and during the period when the Mass X-Ray Unit operated 1,716 males and 1,902 females, totalling 3,618 persons, were dealt with. Of this number 44 were recalled for examination by larger X-ray plates. 19 of these were found to require further investigation. This does not necessarily mean they were suffering from tuberculosis but does indicate that there were abnormal conditions in the chest requiring investigation to determine the cause. Large scale examination such as is carried out by the Unit is of the greatest importance in the control of tuberculosis because only by this means can unknown cases be discovered and the appropriate treatment instituted. The value of early detection and treatment of tuberculosis cannot be over stressed, and quite as important is the supervision of the relatives and the contacts of the known cases. If all persons suffering from tuberculosis were known, this would be a very marked step forward towards the complete control of the disease: indeed one might express the optimistic view that this measure could lead to eventual eradication of this formidable disease. Discovery of cases by mass X-ray examination rests upon the willing co-operation of the public and the response in Staines was most gratifying, so much so that the Unit promised to make another visit.

It was considered advisable to provide a service for dealing with soiled bedding, clothing, etc. of elderly incontinent people living in their own homes, and who were unable to provide this amenity for themselves. Soiled linen is collected after preliminary cleansing in the home and taken to a local laundry. The soiled linen is kept apart from the general wash in the laundry and returned direct to the person concerned. All the local medical practitioners were advised of this service and invited to make use of it for any patients where they felt there was a need, and several have done so.

There were fewer cases of Measles than usual (with no deaths) but an increase in Scarlet Fever which, however, was very mild in type. 3 cases of Anterior Poliomyelitis occurred, 2 children and 1 adult, all paralytic.

Infant deaths under one year were 18. An analysis of the causes of death is submitted.

In conclusion I should like to express my appreciation of the help given to me by the Council and by each member of the Public Health staff.

I have the honour to be, ladies and gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

LOUISE A. MATHESON.

General Statistics

Area—8,250 acres, including 405 acres of water.

Population	...	...	...	...	39,910
Number of Inhabited Houses at 31.3.52	...	...	...	...	10,570
Rateable Value at 31.3.52	...	...	...	...	£399,543
Sum represented by a penny rate at 31.3.52	...	...	...	...	£1,615

Summary of Vital Statistics

Live Births

		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	310	278	588
Illegitimate	...	21	11	32
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		331	289	620
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

<i>Birth Rate</i> (per thousand population)	...	...	15.53
Comparability factor is 0.96, giving a corrected birth rate of	...	...	14.909
Birth Rate England and Wales	...	...	15.3

Still Births

		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	4	7	11
Illegitimate	...	—	2	2

<i>Still Birth Rate</i> (per thousand population)	...	0.326
Still Birth Rate England and Wales	...	0.35

Deaths

Male	...	183
Female	...	179
		<hr/>
		362
		<hr/>

<i>Death Rate</i> (per thousand population )	...	...	9.07
Comparability factor is 1.11, giving a corrected death rate of	...	...	10.068
Death Rate England and Wales	...	...	11.3
Death Rate Staines U.D.C., 1951	...	...	10.60
Deaths from Maternal Causes	...	...	nil
Infant Deaths under one year	...	...	18
Infant Mortality Rate under one year	...	...	29.03
(per thousand live births)			
Infant Mortality Rate England and Wales	...	...	27.6

Provision of Hospitals and Clinics in the Area During 1952

Hospitals:

Ashford Hospital, London Road, Ashford
Staines Hospital, Kingston Road, Staines

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, etc.:

These are provided by the Middlesex County Council at the following addresses:

“ The Grange ”, Gresham Road, Staines
The Health Centre, Stanwell Road, Ashford
Laleham Village Hall, Laleham
Stanwell Village Hall, Stanwell

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47

No formal action was taken during the year under this Act to secure the removal to hospital of persons not receiving care and attention and incapable of looking after themselves. In three cases, however, two men and one woman living alone were persuaded to accept residential accommodation as the conditions in which they were living were quite unsatisfactory to themselves and their neighbours. In this regard the ready assistance rendered by the District Nurses of this area and the co-operation of the Area Welfare Officer in connection with the care of old people living alone should be recorded.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 50

One burial was carried out under the provisions of Section 50 of the Act. The circumstances were that a man died leaving his widow with no money and the Council accepted responsibility for arranging and paying for the funeral.

Notifiable Diseases

A chart showing the diseases notified in their age groups is appended.

Tuberculosis

Thirty-two cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified and there were nine deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis during the year. A chart showing the age and sex distribution of the notifications and deaths is appended.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

No action was necessary under Regulation 20 to prohibit the sale of milk suspected of causing disease.

Food Poisoning

No outbreaks of food poisoning occurred during 1952, no cases being notified.

Causes of Death

<i>Disease</i>				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	...	...	...	5	2
Tuberculosis, other ...	...	...	...	2	Nil
Syphilitic disease ...	...	...	...	1	1
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
Whooping cough ...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
Meningococcal infections ...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
Acute poliomyelitis ...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
Measles ...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	...	...	...	3	Nil
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	...	...	...	16	Nil
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	...	...	...	Nil	13
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	...	...	...	Nil	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	...	...	...	18	14
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	...	...	...	1	Nil
Diabetes ...	...	...	...	Nil	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	...	...	...	17	21
Coronary disease, angina ...	...	...	...	28	12
Hypertension with heart disease ...	...	...	...	7	12
Other heart disease ...	...	...	...	16	41
Other circulatory disease ...	...	...	...	4	9
Influenza ...	...	...	...	1	2
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	12	8
Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	12	4
Other disease of respiratory system ...	...	...	...	2	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	...	...	...	1	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	...	...	...	2	3
Nephritis and nephrosis ...	...	...	...	2	3
Hyperplasia of prostate ...	...	...	...	2	Nil
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
Congenital malformations ...	...	...	...	2	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	...	...	...	21	15
Motor vehicle accidents ...	...	...	...	5	2
All other accidents ...	...	...	...	3	7
Suicide ...	...	...	...	Nil	1
Homicide and operation of war ...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
				183	179

INFANT DEATHS

	Under 1 day		1-6 days		1 week		2 weeks		3 weeks		Total under 1 month		1-2 months		3-5 months		6-8 months		9-11 months		Totals	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Prematurity ...	1	3	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4
Congenital Abnormality	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Acute Bronchitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Atelectasis ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Cerebral Haemorrhage	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Totals ...	3	3	3	2	2	—	—	—	1	—	9	5	2	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	12	6

Infectious Diseases Notified during 1952

		Under 1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15-24 yrs.	25 & over	Total
Scarlet	Fever	—	1	9	30	6	—	—	46
Whooping	Cough	4	18	9	17	—	—	—	48
Acute	Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	3
Measles	...	12	51	70	143	7	1	1	285
Diphtheria	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

		Under 5 years	5-14 yrs.	15-44 yrs.	45-64 yrs.	65 & over	Total
Acute pneumonia	...	—	1	3	1	—	5
Dysentery	...	7	10	3	—	—	20
Acute encephalitis	...	—	1	—	—	—	1
Paratyphoid fevers	...	1	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas	...	—	—	1	—	—	1
Meningococcal infection	...	1	—	—	—	—	1
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Ophthalmia neonatorum — 1

Puerperal Pyrexia — 1

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	NOTIFICATIONS				DEATHS			
	Pulm. M.	F.	Non-Pulm. M.	F.	Pulm. M.	F.	Non-Pulm. M.	F.
0 — 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2 — 4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 14	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 24	3	5	—	—	1	—	—	—
25 — 34	3	3	—	1	—	1	—	—
35 — 44	4	1	—	—	3	—	1	—
45 — 54	2	4	—	1	—	—	—	—
55 — 64	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 — 74	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
75 — 84	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
85 —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	30	14	2	2	7	2	2	2

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Bridge Street,
Staines.

July, 1953.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting this, the Annual Report of the seventh year of my service with the Staines Urban District Council.

I would draw your attention to the remarks of Sir John A. Charles, Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health in Part III of the Report of the Ministry of Health for the year 1951. He states: "We have, in fact, arrived at a time when the citizen himself must actively participate in the campaign for better health if further substantial progress is to be made. We are leaving the era of sanitary engineering and are entering into that of personal hygiene in which each person must definitely contribute to the common weal."

The trend of the work of the Sanitary Inspectors in this district bears out this statement, and it is true that emphasis is shifting to the education of people in their factories, restaurants, schools and homes. There is no doubt that never before have people been so conscious of general public health problems, nor so demanding in their standards of housing, food handling and all related aspects of environmental hygiene. This is encouraging as it is only from an enlightened public opinion that permanent improvements in the field of public health can emanate. It will continue to be the earnest endeavour of myself and my staff to foster and encourage this development.

Many problems remain, however, as is clear from the various sections of the report which follows, not the least of which is concerning the repair of dwelling houses, to which special reference was made in my last report.

The general deterioration of comparatively low-rented houses, subject to rent control has continued and the resistance of owners to notices to carry out repairs has been more marked. This has been demonstrated in two cases by owners requesting the Council to carry out the work required by the notices and the cost to be repaid over an extended period. This course of action had been agreed because,

in the event of legal proceedings being instituted against the owners for failure to comply with a notice, the logical outcome would be for the Council to do the necessary work in default, and in the event of not being able to recover the money from the owner, to collect the rents of the property until the amount was paid.

Since my last report, this subject has been discussed in the national press, and there is a large measure of agreement for the need for a review of the present position which is causing an unnecessary wastage of existing housing accommodation.

The scope of the work of the Public Health Department again increased with the coming into operation of the Pet Animals Act, 1951. The Department welcomes the additional functions delegated to it and endeavours to fulfil all its powers and duties in a co-ordinated manner so as to promote the public health of the district and the well-being of the people.

In this endeavour I am assisted by a loyal staff and fortified by the advice and co-operation of the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and the Officers of the Council, to all of whom my thanks are due and freely given.

I have the honour to be, ladies and gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

JOHN MULLIN.

Water

The water supply to the area continued to be satisfactory both in quality and quantity. Nearly all the buildings in the district have a main supply from the South West Suburban Water Company; a few houses in Laleham Ward are supplied by the West Surrey Water Company and a portion of Colnbrook by the Borough of Slough Water Company.

The water supplies have no plumbo-solvent action and no action was necessary due to contamination of pipe supplies. The South West Suburban Water Company takes raw water from the River Thames; the Company's Engineer takes regular bacteriological examinations both of the raw water and of the treated water going into supply. Regular bacteriological examinations were made by the Water Companies concerned and 3 taken by the Sanitary Inspectors were all reported satisfactory.

There are at present 27 houses in the district having stand-pipes for the supply of water. Of this number 17 are within the London Airport and the question of the demolition of these houses is under discussion with the Ministry of Civil Aviation. In the case

of the other houses, action is being taken for their demolition and where this course is not warranted, for the installation of water supply in pipes inside the house.

Seven houses and a site for ten caravans in the district have been supplied with a mains supply in substitution for unsatisfactory pumped water during the year. Six of these were riverside bungalows at Penton Hook, where a new length of water main was laid, the part of the cost borne by the Council being £60.

The following is a copy of a report on a sample of water from the South West Suburban Water Company's mains submitted for examination during 1952.

Chemical Results in Parts per Million

Appearance: Clear and bright.

Colour	Filtered	11	Turbidity	Nil
pH		7.5	Odour	Nil
Electric Conductivity		540	Free Carbon Dioxide	8
Chlorine present			Total Solids	360
as Chloride		24	Alkalinity as Calcium	
Hardness: Total	275.		Carbonate	180
			Non-carbonate	95
Nitrate Nitrogen		3.8	Nitrite Nitrogen	Less than 0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen		0.054	Oxygen Absorbed	1.5
Albuminoid Nitrogen		0.070	Residual Chlorine	0.04
Metals	Iron: 0.03		Other Metals	absent.

The water is clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and the metallic content is negligible. It is hard in character but hardness and content of mineral and saline constituent in solution are not excessive. Its organic quality and bacterial purity are of a high standard and it is entirely suitable for public supply purposes.

Drainage and Sewerage

Sewage is treated at the West Middlesex Drainage Works at Mogden.

Most of the district is sewered but it is advisable to provide sewers for the Colnbrook and Poyle areas which are semi-rural in character and drained mainly to cesspools. Main drainage has become more necessary because of the development of the trading estate at Poyle. The Council has prepared a scheme and is anxious to carry it out and it is hoped the work will not be delayed.

A scheme for the assistance of owners of houses drained to cesspools to connect the drains to the sewer where one was available was completed in March of this year, and tenders obtained in

respect of 25 houses for a new scheme to be commenced in 1953.

There remain 93 houses still drained to cesspools where a sewer is available. There are no legal provisions whereby the Council can require owners of such houses to connect them to the sewer unless the Council pays for the work to be done. The Public Health Act, 1936, does provide that where a cesspool overflows or the contents leak therefrom, the owner must make the cesspool water-tight. The abolition of cesspools wherever practicable is a highly desirable public health measure and the scheme referred to is one whereby the Council advertises for tenders for cesspool conversion, pays the contractor, and the owners repay the sum over a period of seven years. In this way and by persuasion it is hoped that the remaining cesspools will be abolished.

In one case the Council paid half the cost of a conversion of a pail closet to main drainage, in accordance with the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Following the enlargement of the area in 1930 and 1934 and the extension of main drainage to the added areas in 1936, the Council has secured the abolition of 4,588 cesspools. This is a notable public health improvement and one of which the Council can be proud.

Summary of Housing and Sanitary Inspections

Housing:

Housing Act, 1936, Section 9:—

Inspections	...	...	...	...	5
Reinspections	...	...	...	...	86

Housing Act, 1936, Section 11:

Inspections	...	...	...	...	22
Reinspections	...	...	...	...	41

Housing Act, 1936, Section 12:

Inspections	...	...	...	...	1
Reinspections	...	...	...	...	18

Public Health Act, 1936:

Inspections	...	...	...	...	929
Reinspections	...	...	...	...	1890

Overcrowding 119

Council Houses 209

— 3320

General:

Massage and Chiropody Premises 12

Cesspools 403

Drainage Works 401

Drain Testing 62

Factories and Outworkers	...	...	...	183	
Smoke Abatement	...	...	...	21	
Rodent Control	...	...	...	252	
Vermin	...	...	...	104	
Keeping of Animals and Poultry	...	...	...	156	
Water Supplies	...	...	...	77	
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	243	
Food Premises	...	...	...	1113	
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	30	
Caravans	...	...	...	272	
Places of Public Entertainment	...	...	...	44	
Shops Act	...	...	...	35	
Hawkers	...	...	...	57	
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	27	
Schools	...	...	...	14	
River Pollution	...	...	...	25	
Refuse Deposits	...	...	...	66	
Hairdressers	...	...	...	12	
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	230	
				<hr/>	3839
					<hr/>
					7159
					<hr/>

Number of Notices Served:

			<i>Informal</i>	<i>Formal</i>
Housing Act, 1936, Section 9	...	...	3	3
Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	241	85
Shops Act, 1950	...	...	1	—
Food & Drugs Act, 1938	...	...	40	—
			<hr/>	<hr/>
			285	88
			<hr/>	<hr/>

Complaints:

436 complaints were received during the year, these mainly concerned repairs to dwelling houses.

Works Completed—Nuisances abated, etc.

Dampness remedied	...	...	...	46
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	85
Floors repaired	...	...	...	31
Walls repaired	...	...	...	78
Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	37
Windows repaired or renewed	...	...	...	73
General internal repairs	...	...	...	31
General external repairs	...	...	...	22

Cesspools cleansed (Statutory Notice)	...	...	7
Rainwater gutters and pipes	...	...	45
Chimneys repaired	...	...	15
Yard paving repaired or renewed	...	...	2
Fire grates repaired or renewed	...	...	20
Verminous premises cleansed	...	...	37
Pail closets abolished	...	...	1
Domestic chimneys—nuisance abated	...	...	3
Drains—new, repaired, cleared, etc.	...	...	36
W.C.'s and fittings repaired or renewed	...	...	57
Waste pipes, new or repaired	...	...	18
Cesspools abolished	...	...	25
Houses provided with proper water supply	...	...	7
Accumulations of rubbish removed	...	...	7
Miscellaneous	...	...	17

Housing Statistics

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 957
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 2992
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... ---
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ---
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 4
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 322

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:—

- Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... 191

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

- (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Acts, 1936:—

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	3
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a)	By owners	3
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	—
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Act:—	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	85
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a)	By owners	85
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	—
(c)	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	2
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	4
(d)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	—
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—

Overcrowding

7 statutorily overcrowded families were rehoused by the Council and there are 45 families totalling 223 persons who are statutorily overcrowded. This is a little under 0.45% of the houses in the area.

Factories Act, 1937

Inspections for Purposes of Provisions as to Health

(Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Number of Written notices</i>	<i>Occupier prosecuted</i>
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by L.A.'s ...	15	5	1	—
2. Factories not included in 1, in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A. ...	213	169	—	—
3. Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	2	—	—	—
TOTALS	230	174	1	—

Cases in Which Defects Were Found

	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Referred To H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>Number of cases in which prose- cutions- By H.M. were In- stituted</i>
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	3	2	—	1
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temp. (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—
Inad. Vent'n. (S.4) ...	—	1	—	—
Ineffect. drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):—				
(a) insufficient ...	6	2	—	2
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	7	10	—	1
(c) not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Home work) ...	—	—	2	—
TOTAL	16	15	2	4

Outworkers:

There are 14 out-workers in the Area, nearly all making wearing apparel.

Legal Proceedings

Public Health Act, 1936:

Five summonses were issued for failure to comply with notices

to secure the abatement of nuisance. Orders were made in each case and the orders complied with.

Middlesex County Council Act, 1944 and 1950 :

Summonses were taken out against the occupiers of three caravans sited on one farm and the occupiers of two caravans on another farm. Each occupier was fined £2 for occupying a caravan without the consent of the Council.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Food Premises :

					<i>No. of Inspections</i>
Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	25
Butchers' Shops		...	...	...	82
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	25
Ice Cream Premises		...	...	...	124
Restaurants and Cafes		...	...	...	184
Other Food Premises		...	...	...	673
					<hr/>
					1,113
					<hr/>
		<i>Butchers</i>	<i>Kitchens</i>		<i>Other food premises</i>
Premises cleansed	...	2	2		9
Ventilation provided	...	—	1		4
Hot water supply provided	...	1	1		18
Floors and walls cleansed	...	1	5		10
Lighting improved	...	—	—		2
Miscellaneous	...	—	—		8

The following foods, examined by your Inspectors in the various types of food premises, were surrendered as unfit for human consumption :—

2,545 canned foods	60 lbs. frozen skinned rabbits
12 lbs. pressed mutton	5 lbs. goose
148 lbs. mutton	11 stone dog fish
6 lbs. lamb	7 stone cod
619 lbs. beef	27 lbs. smoked cod fillets
3 lbs. beef trimmings	40lbs. herrings roes
35 lbs. liver	72 pkts. processed cheese
42 lbs. pork	58 lbs. cheese
28 pigs' plucks	1½ lbs. butter
5 lbs. pigs' feet	2 lbs. margarine
6 pigs' heads	14 lbs. dried egg

98 lbs. imported pigs' stomachs	20 lbs. flour
7 pigs' carcasses	23 pkts. cake mixture
13 lbs. ham	50 lbs. tea
4 lbs. jellied pork	44 bottles coffee essence
119 lbs. bacon	15 lbs. chocolate
191 lbs. sausage meat	70 lbs. prunes
131 lbs. sausages	

Food and Drugs Act, 1938

I am indebted to the Chief Officer, Public Control Department, Middlesex County Council for the following report on duties under the Food and Drugs Act carried out by his Department.

“ Samples submitted to the Public Analyst: 4 milk, of which 2 were unsatisfactory; 17 other than milk, none of which was unsatisfactory.

Samples examined or tested in my Department: 122 milk, of which 6 were unsatisfactory; 98 other than milk, of which 7 were unsatisfactory.

With regard to the 8 unsatisfactory milk samples, all were of new milk and either deficient in fat or solids-not-fats. There was no addition of water and apart from warning letters no further action was taken. The 7 unsatisfactory other than milk samples included 4 samples of canned Pond's Seedling plums labelled “ Victoria Plums ”, associated in a case from which a prosecution arose, the packers being fined £2, and ordered to pay 2 guineas costs. Two cases were of passing-off smoked cod as smoked haddock. In one case an official caution was issued and in the other a warning. There was also one case of the sale of non-brewed condiment as vinegar.”

Food Byelaws:

No legal action was necessary to enforce these byelaws; the general awareness of food traders and their staffs of hygienic handling appears to be improving. The Sanitary Inspectors made routine inspections of all premises, food delivery vans and market stalls. It was found that traders were very ready to co-operate in improving premises, providing counter-screens, etc., when the need was demonstrated to them. It was noted too, that where improvements were carried out at one shop, neighbouring shops soon followed suit.

Middlesex County Council Act, 1950, Section 11:

Under this Act, Hawkers are required to be registered with the Council, as are the premises where their food is stored. During the year 13 applications were received and 3 in respect of their premises.

The majority of the registrations were in respect of two classes of traders, namely ice-cream vendor, and fruit and vegetable hawker.

It has been the experience of this Council that a fair proportion of those making application for registration, particularly those wishing to engage in the sale of fruit and vegetables, are not of the best type to engage in the food trade, but it is generally impossible to muster sufficient grounds to refuse the application. It is fortunate that generally speaking there is no great risk of food poisoning from the type of foods handled in this trade.

The provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and of the Food Byelaws apply to the hawkers' premises, but discretion is used in the application of these powers according to the type of food stored.

Clean Food Campaign:

A large proportion of your Sanitary Inspectors' time continued to be directed towards raising the standard of food handling and there is evidence that the standard is slowly rising. The number of inspections of food premises was 1,113. It is most frequently careless or ignorant handling in the home, restaurant or canteen kitchen that can cause food poisoning. There is no doubt that many such cases occur in mild form which are not notified and which do not receive medical attention.

Persons employed as kitchen staff still do not seem to be of a high standard and frequently these employees come from a poor home environment with no fixed bath or running hot-water. It is difficult for this type of person to adjust themselves to the infinitely higher standards required in a restaurant or canteen kitchen where a large number of persons are at risk from one employee's careless, slovenly or ignorant actions.

For this reason, education has been given to these workers in their places of work and the Sanitary Inspectors have themselves demonstrated washing-up procedures. This practical help which is assisted by the taking of swabs from crockery and cutlery for demonstration purposes has resulted in a gradual but marked improvement throughout the district. Samples of synthetic cream and other foods have also been taken for bacteriological examination and the results have been generally satisfactory.

It is considered incongruous that synthetic cream, which is more liable to contamination than is ice-cream (which in many cases now is wrapped) is not subject to the same rigid control. It is a widely distributed commodity especially in confectionery and could be the cause of widespread food poisoning. It is generally manu-

factured by the bakers themselves in their own bakehouses, either from a proprietary cream which is whisked up with sugar or in some cases from basic ingredients, according to each baker's own recipe. In one case during the year when an unsatisfactory result was obtained from the cream used, further bacteriological examination was subsequently made of each of the ingredients separately and it was found that canned frozen whole eggs were not sterile. When mixed with fat and other ingredients of the cream and subjected to the normal temperatures in the bakehouse, the organisms quickly multiplied, causing the cream to become potentially dangerous as food. Subsequently, the bakery concerned never used these eggs unless they were heat treated to a sufficient temperature to kill all the organisms present.

Foreign matter has again been found in some foodstuffs, usually indicative of careless handling. Each case was thoroughly investigated and the facts reported to the Public Health Committee. Warnings were sent to the firms concerned but no legal proceedings were instituted.

Milk and Dairies Regulations :

This district forms part of an area in which only heat treated or designated milk is allowed to be sold. The reason for this is that milk supplies for the greater London area generally speaking have to be transported long distances, and when raw milk is bulked together, the milk from one cow infected with tuberculosis can contaminate all the milk in a tanker. Heat treatment is the only method of ensuring that bulked supplies are safe for human consumption.

The Sanitary Inspectors take regular samples of milk to ensure that heat treatment has been efficiently carried out, and during the year 11 samples were taken all of which were satisfactory.

Within the district there is only one dairy where the pasteurisation of milk is carried out. During the year, the plant was modernised, and improvements to the premises put in hand. The main change was from the " Holder " process of pasteurisation to that of " High Temperature Short Time ". The former method entails holding the milk at a temperature of between 145° and 150°F. for 30 minutes, and the latter requires the milk to be heated to a temperature of not less than 162°F. for at least 15 seconds; in both cases the milk must be cooled thereafter immediately to not more than 55° F.

The new plant takes up less space in the dairy and it has been possible to modernise the accommodation considerably. Further improvements are envisaged to the cold room.

Concern was felt regarding the number of complaints received of milk bottles delivered to customers and schools in a dirty condition. Whilst this demonstrates that the bottles have been misused whilst in the hands of customers, it is no excuse that they should not have been discovered during the bottle washing processes at the dairies. These cases have been reported to the Public Health Committee as they have arisen, and the various firms have been notified and warned that future occurrences would result in action being taken against them.

Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations:

Manufacture and sale of ice-cream continued to receive attention. Most of the ice-cream sold in the district is made by large manufacturers, but there are still 3 retailers making their own ice-cream from a complete cold mix. 106 premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream, 7 new dealers being registered during the year.

69 samples of ice-cream were submitted to the Area Public Health Laboratory at Epsom for examination by the Methylene Blue Test, and the table shows that the quality continued to improve.

		<i>Nos. of samples</i>	<i>% placed in Grades 1 and 2</i>	<i>% placed in Grades 3 and 4</i>
1947	...	51	56.9	43.1
1948	...	120	76.7	23.3
1949	...	150	80.7	19.3
1950	...	166	83.5	16.5
1951	...	88	87.5	12.5
1952	...	69	91.3	8.7

It will be seen that in 1947 56.9% samples were placed in Grades 1 or 2, whereas by 1952 this had risen to 91.3%.

124 visits were made to premises where ice-cream is either made or sold, and your inspectors checked storage temperatures and advised retailers on clean methods of serving and handling ice-cream. Inspections were made of vendors selling ice-cream from tricycles, etc. and there is lack of cleanliness in serving by such vendors, especially where loose ice-cream is sold, and these traders are advised to sell pre-packed ice-cream.

The grading is according to the standard recommended by the Ministry of Health the methylene blue test being an indication of the bacteriological cleanliness. Ice-cream manufactured and served under hygienic conditions should fall in Grades 1 or 2 and good makers have no difficulty in maintaining this standard.

At one shop a new "soft mix" type of ice-cream was introduced, and several aspects of the method employed contravened the Ice-

Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations. Samples were taken of the pasteurised mix before and after freezing and several unsatisfactory results were obtained. The manufacturer was informed accordingly and the methods employed were changed to comply with the regulations, since which time the results of bacteriological examinations have been consistently good.

Ice Lollies:

Ice lollies are not subject to the same control as is ice-cream. The sale of these articles showed a substantial increase over previous years, and though a proportion of them are supplied to retailers by large manufacturers, a considerable number are prepared and frozen by the retailers themselves. Lollies are made from fruit syrup and water which is frozen in a domestic or commercial refrigerator, and though the quality varies very considerably, there is no great danger to public health, as the acidity of the fruit juice inhibits the growth of bacteria.

Inspections are made from time to time of all such premises where these lollies are made, and samples have been taken for analysis; so far no unsatisfactory results have been obtained.

Inspection of Meat:

There are no slaughter-houses in operation in the area since killing was centralised by the Ministry of Food in 1940, but two slaughter-houses are used occasionally for the killing of self suppliers' pigs under Ministry of Food permits. 119 pigs killed under permits were inspected, 79 of which were passed as fit for food. Of the remainder, the whole carcase and all its organs were condemned in 5 cases; and merely the infected organs or parts of the carcase in 35 pigs inspected.

818 lbs. of fresh meat were condemned in butchers' shops mainly due to bone taint. It is unfortunate that bone taint usually affects the best carcasses; it is a result of internal decomposition frequently the result of bad management at the slaughter-house, where carcasses are not hung for a sufficient time to lose all their body heat before they are sent out to the retail shops.

Meat Transport:

No improvement has occurred in the design of vehicles used in this area for delivery of meat, nor is it likely to do until the national economy permits the use of vans designed for hanging fresh meat on rails.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

The Council employs one Rodent Operator who is provided with

an 8 h.p. van to enable him to transport his equipment, baits and poisons and to cover the whole district of over 8,000 acres efficiently. Treatment is carried out free at private houses and, as in former years, the majority of the infestations dealt with are connected with the keeping of domestic poultry or of pig-keeping. 11 informal and 5 formal notices were served under the Act requiring the execution of work to remove harbourage for rats.

Test baiting of the Council's sewers again showed that they were almost free from rat infestation.

The following is a summary of inspections, etc., carried out by the Operator:

Number of properties inspected	...	...	...	527
Number of properties found to be infested by rats	...	...	...	449
Number of dwelling houses treated	...	...	...	417
Number of business premises treated	...	...	...	63
Total number of visits	...	...	...	3417

The Council has also dealt during the year with wasps' nests, mosquito breeding on ponds, ants in private houses and hospitals, bed-bug infestations, wood boring insects, and other domestic insect pests. The advice of the Sanitary Inspectors is frequently sought by people in the area to identify and recommend treatment for eradication of many different kinds of insect pests.

The plague of chironomids from the reservoir in Stanwell during the summer months continued to engage the attention of this Council and of the Metropolitan Water Board, and though remedial measures were taken, the answer to the problem of how best to tackle this most serious nuisance has not been found. Investigations are continuing in the hope of discovering an efficient and safe method of control.

Refuse

During the year an increasing number of incidents were reported of indiscriminate dumping of refuse throughout the district, generally on the verges of little-used roads. Refuse dumped in this way, unless quickly removed, very soon gets added to, and the resulting tip becomes unsightly and frequently rat infested.

Attempts made to discover the person responsible are almost invariably abortive and the result is that the removal of such accumulations becomes a charge on the rates.

Caravans

As at the end of 1952, 43 occupied caravans were stationed in the district either on approval caravan sites or singly on land or

in gardens adjacent to houses. Of this number 17 had only temporary consent or were under notice to remove. The powers of this Council in regard to caravans are contained in the Public Health Act, 1936, the Middlesex County Council Act, 1944, and the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947.

There are three approved sites managed by private site operators in the district, one for ten, one for six and another for four caravans; two of these sites were approved during the year. On all these sites the caravans are placed well apart from each other, the surrounding gardens are well maintained, and water supply is readily available.

The number of applications received by the Council to station a caravan in the district continued to increase, as did the number of caravans brought into the district without the necessary prior permission of the Council. The general policy of the Council was to refuse all new applications and to require the removal either forthwith or at most within a few months, of any caravan brought into the area without its prior consent.

The justification of this policy in this district and throughout the County of Middlesex generally is that in an over populated area an influx of caravans will inevitably lead—by reason of the short-lived nature of the materials of which caravans are normally built and of increasing size of occupying families—to a demand for rehousing in areas where it is doubtful if there is sufficient land for normal requirements. The caravan problem in the greater London area is thus an integral part of the general housing shortage, to which the setting up of large caravan sites cannot be accepted as an answer.

Further trouble was experienced with vagrants who many times invaded quiet corners of the district leaving rubbish and destruction behind them. On each occasion, the Sanitary Inspectors used their influence to move on these undesirable characters.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

This Act came into force in April, 1952, and five persons in the district are licensed under the Act to sell animals, birds or fish. The Act is designed to regulate the sale of pet animals for the prevention of cruelty and suffering. The Sanitary Inspectors visit the licensed premises for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of the Act.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

The provisions of this Act generally require the registration of premises where rag flock and other filling materials are used in

the manufacture of bedding, furniture, toys, etc., and the licensing of premises where these materials are made. It also provides for the sampling of the materials. Only one bedding firm in this district is registered under the Act, where inspections are made regularly by the Sanitary Inspectors.

A great weakness of this Act is the lack of control over premises which are engaged only in the remaking or reconditioning of such articles of which there are some half dozen within the Urban District. It is hoped that at some future date, these may be brought within the scope of the legislation.

Public Conveniences

The Sanitary Inspectors make regular inspections of the public conveniences situated throughout the district. It is to be regretted that these buildings are the subject of a great deal of misuse and even vandalism.

